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CITIZEN OF MEXICO PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("BICE") Robin Avers, announced that Eduardo Garcia-Cecenas, a citizen of Mexico, has pleaded guilty to re-entering the United States illegally following his deportation.

Garcia-Cenecas, age 36, was arrested by BICE Special Agents on March 24, 2004 when he tried to register a car at the Merrimack, New Hampshire, Office of the Department of Motor Vehicles using a Mexican Voter Identification Card.

During a hearing in United States District Court yesterday afternoon, Garcia-Cecenas admitted that he received a 25 year-suspended sentence and that he was deported to Mexico after he pleaded guilty to distributing a controlled substance in an Iowa State Court in November 1996. He also acknowledged that he subsequently re-entered the country without seeking or obtaining permission from the Attorney General of the United States.

Garcia could be sentenced to up to 20 years in jail when he is sentenced by United States District Court Judge Steven McAuliffe on December 21, 2004.

After today's court proceeding, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case shows the commitment of the United States Attorney's Office, together with the Department of Homeland Security BICE, to continue to pursue and prosecute anyone who violates those laws in New Hampshire." This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Kinsella.